

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 THE HA 00980 262115Z

55

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 064611

O 261855Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5313

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 0980

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NL

SUBJ: F-104 REPLACEMENT: DEFENSE MINISTER VREDELING

REQUESTS MEETING WITH SEC. DEF.

FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FROM AMBASSADOR GOULD

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL

SUMMARY: DEFENSE MINISTER VREDELING MET WITH DCM AND ME PRIVATELY AT HIS INITIATIVE TO SPELL OUT HIS CONCEPTUAL APPROACH AND CONCERNS RE THE F-104 REPLACEMENT QUESTION AND TO EXPRESS KEEN DESIRE FOR A QTE TALK IT OUT UNQTE MEETING WITH YOU (SECDEF) PRIOR TO THE IMPORTANT AND PERHAPS CRUCIAL DUTCH CABINET MEETING ON MARCH 14. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU ACCOMMODATE HIS REQUEST FOR A MEETING AS VREDELING HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHAT RECOMMENDATION TO MAKE TO THE CABINET AND OBVIOUSLY SETS HIGH VALUE ON YOUR VIEWS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN AN UNUSUAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER OF DEFENSE VREDELIING, WHO HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN RELUCTANT TO MEET WITH GOVERNMENT OR BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE COUNTRIES CONTENDING FOR THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER SALE EXPRESSED INTEREST YESTERDAY IN MEETING PRIVATELY WITH US. ALBERT SLIJTING, MOD INFORMATION CHIEF, WHO LAST WEEK GAVE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 THE HA 00980 262115Z

US WHAT PROVED TO BE AN ACCURATE INSIGHT INTO VREDELING'S

THINKING (THE HAGUE 905), SERVED AS INTERMEDIARY IN  
MAKING THE ARRANGEMENTS. RESULTING MEETING BETWEEN  
VREDELING, DCM, AND ME TOOK PLACE LAST NIGHT (FEB. 25)  
OVER DRINKS AND DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE.

2. VREDELING WITH HIS CHARACTERISTICALLY FRANK AND  
UNORTHODOX APPROACH CANDIDLY RAISED AND DISCUSSED ALL  
THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE LWF SELECTION MATTER WHICH  
ARE TROUBLING HIM. HIS MAJOR CONCERN, TO WHICH HE  
FREQUENTLY RETURNS IS A DESIRE NOT TO ACT IN A WAY  
WHICH WILL BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE EVENTUAL PRODUCTION  
OF A TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED EUROPEAN MILITARY PLANE BY  
A EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY STANDING ON ITS OWN FEET.

3. VREDELING WILLINGLY CONCEDED THE TECHNICAL SUPERIORITY  
OF THE YF-16 AND HE EXPRESSED NO INTEREST PER SE IN BUYING  
THE MIRAGE. FURTHERMORE, HE EXPRESSED NO PARTICULAR  
INTEREST IN ACQUIRING A CHEAPER, LIGHTER PLANE (SUCH  
AS THE F-5E TIGER) AS STATE SECRETARY STEMERDINK AND  
PARLIAMENTARIAN DANKERT HAVE BEEN ADVOCATING.

4. HE MENTIONED THAT HE FELT HIS STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT  
WHICH HAD BEEN LOCALLY TREATED BY THE PRESS AS PRO-  
MIRAGE WAS NOT PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD: WHAT HE HAD TRIED  
TO SAY WAS THAT EUROPE MUST EVENTUALLY DEVELOP ITS  
OWN PLANE CAPACITY. SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSING HIMSELF  
TO THE PROBLEM OF REPLACING THE NETHERLANDS' 100  
NF-5S--WHICH WILL NEED TO BE REPLACED IN THE MID-1980S  
ABOUT FIVE YEARS AFTER THE STARFIGHTERS--HE EXPRESSED  
THE HOPE THAT THEY WOULD BE REPLACED BY A EUROPEAN PLANE.  
HOWEVER, HE IS AFRAID THAT ONCE THE NETHERLANDS STARTS DOWN  
THE YF-16 PATH FOR THE STARFIGHTERS QTE EUROPE WILL GO TO  
SLEEP UNQTE IN DEVELOPING A EUROPEAN PLANE AND THE GON  
WILL THEREFORE HAVE TO REPLACE ITS NF-5S WITH AN AMERICAN  
PLANE ALSO, NO EUROPEAN PLANE HAVING BEEN DEVELOPED IN THE  
INTERIM.

5. VREDELING INDICATED THAT ON MARCH 14 A CABINET  
MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT WHICH TIME HE IS EXPECTED  
TO MAKE A FIRM RECOMMENDATION ON THE LWF CHOICE. IT  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 THE HA 00980 262115Z

APPEARED OBVIOUS TO US THAT HE HAS NOT YET CRYSTALLIZED  
HIS THINKING.

6. RESPONDING TO VREDELING, WE EMPHASIZED THAT SELECTION  
OF THE YF-16 TO REPLACE THE STARFIGHTERS WAS NOT AT ALL  
INCONSISTENT WITH DEVELOPMENT OF A EUROPEAN PLANE CAPACITY;  
FIRST, BECAUSE GREAT TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANTAGES WOULD FLOW  
FROM THE U.S. TO EUROPE, AND SECOND, BECAUSE THE U.S. OFFER

CALLS NOT FOR SUB-CONTRACTING BUT FOR GENUINE CO-PRODUCTION WHICH ENVISAGES TWO EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY LINES. WE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. IN INTERESTS OF RATIONALIZATION AND SPECIALIZATION WAS PRESENTLY PURCHASING THE ROLAND MISSILE AND WAS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF OTHER EUROPEAN MANUFACTURED ARMAMENTS SUCH AS THE LEOPARD TANK.

7. VREDELING THEN EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN MEETING WITH YOU TO REVIEW IN DEPTH ALL THESE VARIOUS FACTORS AND-- IMPLICIT IN HIS REQUEST--TO HEAR YOUR ADVICE ON HOW HE SHOULD FORMULATE HIS RECOMMENDATION TO THE DUTCH CABINET. HE SAID HE WAS AVAILABLE TO TRAVEL AT ANY TIME WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AND WILLING TO ACCOMMODATE TO YOUR SCHEDULE, ADDING HE WAS QTE READY TO LEAVE TONIGHT UNQTE. I REPLIED THAT I WOULD RELAY HIS REQUEST AND GIVE HIM A PROMPT REPLY.

8. VREDELING HAS BEEN CIRCUMSPECT IN AVOIDING CONTACTS WITH THE CONTENDERS. THE FACT THAT HE APPROACHED US AND NOW WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO SEE YOU WE CONSIDER A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT AND ONE WHICH GIVES A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO HELP HIM MAKE UP HIS MIND IN FAVOR OF THE YF-16. HE OBVIOUSLY VALUES YOUR OPINION AND COUNSEL HIGHLY. STILL UNCOMMITTED AND FACED WITH THE NECESSITY OF ADOPTING A POSITION BEFORE THE UPCOMING CABINET MEETING, HE IS SEARCHING FOR HELP TO FIND FIRM GROUND ON WHICH TO BASE A LOGICAL RECOMMENDATION FOR THE LWF REPLACEMENT WHICH WOULD SOMEHOW ADVANCE THE PROSPECTS--OR AT LEAST, NOT HINDER THEM,-FOR AN EVENTUAL EUROPEAN PLANE. WE BELIEVE WE MADE PROGRESS LAST NIGHT BUT HE STILL NEEDS MORE CONVINCING.

9 RECOMMENDATION: I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT AT YOUR  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 THE HA 00980 262115Z

EARLIEST CONVENIENCE YOU ACCOMMODATE VREDELING'S DESIRE TO SEE YOU, AND THAT YOU TAKE THE OCCASION TO SHARE WITH HIM YOUR VIEWS ON RATIONALIZATION AND STANDARDIZATION AND THE IMPORTANCE YOU ATTACH TO SELECTION OF THE YF-16.  
GOULD

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, AIRCRAFT, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975THEHA00980  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750068-0206  
**From:** THE HAGUE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975029/aaaaahxo.tel  
**Line Count:** 159  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2003 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** F-104 REPLACEMENT: DEFENSE MINISTER VREDELING REQUESTS MEETING WITH SEC. DEF.  
**TAGS:** MASS, NL  
**To:** DOD STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006